

Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church  
317 LeRoy Avenue  
Buffalo  
Erie County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5709

HABS  
NY,  
15-BUF,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE NEW YORK	COUNTY ERIE	TOWN OR VICINITY BUFFALO
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) BLESSED TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH		HABS NO. NY-5709
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 317 LeRoy Avenue		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1923-28	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Chester Oakley and Albert Schallmo of Buffalo	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The church is one of the purest examples of 12th century Lombard-Romanesque architecture in the nation. In the interior there are over 2,000 symbols and images in terra cotta tiles, paintings and sculptures representing Christianity. The church was built primarily to accommodate expanding population of largely Catholic affiliation during the first quarter of 20th century.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Lombard-Romanesque architecture		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Foundation is of limestone. Brick walls are of unmolded type set in a herringbone pattern. In keeping with the Lombard architectural (con't. to p. 2)		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 116 1/2' X 164' in dimension. Height: 123 feet high to top of cross.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Typical Lombard-Romanesque characteristics are employed in the exterior and are as follows: octagonal Lombard clerestory with a cupola; a projecting entrance; buttresses; corbels and paired roundhead windows.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Interior characteristics are largely Lombard-Romanesque. There is a minimum use of Byzantine detailing. The ceiling of the main part of the church is ribbed vaulting with supportive clustered piers, which is an inherent feature of Lombard architecture. In the transept and choir area barrel vaulting is used. Also typical of Lombard-Romanesque church interior (con't to p.2)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Early 1950s: Three original amber Cathedral glass rose windows and the sanctuary skylight replaced with Tiffany glass. 1968: New altar built out of columns and table supports from the side altar.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE At this writing the structure is still used as a Roman Catholic church.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE A cloister is attached to the church's rear west side, and behind it to the west is the Parish House, built in 1914. There was an original church, built in 1907, located northwest of the present church. This was converted to a school when the construction (con't. to p. 2)		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1979		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE 1982

BLESSED TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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Architectural Data Form

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION:

tradition these bricks were specifically medieval in nature and were made by hand by the descendants of French brickmakers in Exeter, New Hampshire, using medieval methods and tools.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE:

is the semi-circular apse. The decorative material used on the windows, doorways, floors, columns and arches is terra cotta, which is also used for structural purposes.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE:

of the present church was completed. Based on architectural merit the church was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.